

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 EB-03 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 MBFR-02 PRS-01 ACDA-10 DRC-01 /068 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7746

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USNMR SHAPE

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

S E C R E T BONN 14184

LIMDIS

GENEVA FOR U.S. DEL CSCE: SHAPE FOR INTAF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, US, GW, NATO

SUBJECT: SENATE ACTION ON U.S. TROOP LEVELS: FRG

REACTIONS

1. DURING WEEKEND EAST-WEST COLLOQUIUM AT LOCCUM,
FOREIGN OFFICE STATE SECRETARY APEL TOLD EMBOFF
THAT SENATE ACTIONS ON MANSFIELD, HUMPHREY,
JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENTS HAD CAUSED "CONSIDERABLE
SHOCK" AT SENIOR LEVELS OF GERMAN GOVERNMENT. APEL
SAID THE FRG WAS MAINTAINING A RESTRAINED PUBLIC
POSTURE ON THESE SENATE ACTIONS AND WOULD BE LIMITING

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ITS PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO EXPRESSIONS OF CONFIDENCE IN

THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION AGAINST UNILATERAL TROOP CUTS (SEE BONN 13998). HOWEVER, APEL WISHED US TO KNOW THAT THE "EXTRAORDINARILY ARBITRARY CHARACTER" OF LAST WEEK'S SENATE ACTIONS, INCLUDING THE "RATHER ASTONISHING REVERSAL" OF THE EARLIER MANSFIELD VICTORY, HAD RAISED QUESTIONS IN THE MINDS OF FRG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNING HOW LONG IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO BEAT BACK SENATE PRESSURE FOR UNILATERAL CUTS. APEL SAID HE WISHED FRANKLY TO VOICE HIS CONCERN AS TO WHETHER THE U.S. WOULD BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN A STRONG PRESENCE IN EUROPE WHILE REDUCING THE AMERICAN ROLE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. APEL SAID HE AND OTHER SENIOR GERMAN OFFICIALS STRONGLY HOPED THAT THIS WOULD BE THE CASE BUT THAT LAST WEEK'S SENATE ACTIONS HAD SHAKEN THEM.

2. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, SPD DEPUTY KAHN ACKERMANN, A MEMBER OF THE BUNDESTAG FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, ALSO EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN OVER LAST WEEK'S SENATE ACTIONS. KAHN ACKERMANN TOLD EMBOFF THAT SENATE ACTIONS HAD CAUSED CONSIDERABLE NERVOUSNESS WITHIN ALL BUNDESTAG PARTIES RE MEDIUM TERM PROSPECTS FOR MAINTAINING CURRENT LEVELS OF US TROOP PRESENCE. THIS SAME POINT WAS CONFIRMED IN ANOTHER SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH CDU DEPUTY ERIC BLUMENFELD.

3. IN REPLYING, EMBOFF ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL BATTLE ON THE TROOP ISSUE WAS AND WOULD BE A TOUGH ONE BUT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT RESULTS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE MORE POSITIVE THAN LAST WEEK'S VOTES IN THE SENATE. EMBOFF ADDED THAT NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE GERMANS AND AMERICA'S OTHER WEST EUROPEAN ALLIES TO MAKE DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION IN THE BURDEN SHARING FIELD IN ORDER TO HELP THE ADMINISTRATION POSITION ON THE TROOP ISSUE.

HILLENBRAND

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